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Willie Ballantine to Jim, 22 September 1960

Willie Ballantine

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Ballantine runs this ↓
SCOTTISH INFORMATION OFFICE

Telephone: Waverley 2501 Extn:.....

Telegrams: ALBYN, EDINBURGH

Our Reference:.....

Your Reference:.....



ST. ANDREW'S HOUSE
EDINBURGH 1

*The Office is a branch of the Departments of the
Secretary of State for Scotland and agent in
Scotland for the Central Office of Information*

22nd September, 1960.

Dear Jim,

I am delighted to hear from you again and I'll be only too happy to do what I can to welcome your friend, Professor Wiley. I don't think it will be too difficult to arrange for some invitations to be sent to him to address Historical Associations in Scotland and even, perhaps, some of the universities. I know two of the Principals - Taylor of Aberdeen and Knox of St. Andrews - and I would be glad to talk to them also about the possibilities of arranging suitable occasions for him. But it's a little difficult to do this on so wide a margin of time as the autumn of 1961 or the spring of 1962. Couldn't you persuade him to be a little more definite? From your own experience of the Scottish climate, you will know that the autumn is no time to come visiting in these parts, but if, for specific reasons, he must come then, ask him to give me a definite month or two and I'll try to set about filling in dates for him. I am assuming, of course, that payment is not involved because - again as you will know - there's no-one quite so hard-up as a Scottish academic group. What this means is that if you can focus on to something more definite in the way of times and expenses, the only thing you need to worry about is the number of invitations that he can

James W. Silver, Esq.,
The University of Mississippi,
College of Liberal Arts University,
Mississippi,
U.S.A.

/accept

accept (within reason!).

I've thought of you often, particularly during the past summer which has resembled nothing so much as a very late autumn in Mississippi. I've found myself recalling more than once the kind of climate that allows one to sit on the grass and eat "hush puppies" and wash one's ears with large slices of watermelon. I recalled our visit, too, the other day when I took home a book by someone on the New Yorker devoted to the life of Henry Ward Beecher. It was written last year, I believe. I imagine you've read it. You were the first to tell me of the Beechers' secret life.

It would be interesting to know who you are going to vote for this year. Looked at from this side, the choice does not seem particularly enviable.

I look forward to hearing from you when you've got more news from your friend.

Kindest regards to Mrs Silver,

Yours sincerely,

Willie Ballantine

Willie Ballantine